

ABNEGATION.

"The mother of Jesus saith unto Him: They have

How countless are the souls for whom the days Are empty of all stimulating glow.

That sends the bounding blood with quickening

Along the tingling veins; who never raise Their heavy eyes beyond the flinty ways.
Their daily feet must tread, who hever know.
This world is good, because of carrs that so.
Thorn every step of life's baserious mane?

The plot ding persants, they must plant and rear, And weed and water, that the tenning soil
May yield its richness to the clustered vine.
Must teamp the grapes until their joice run

For lordly tipe; and yet, for all their toil, Taste not the flagon fillest. They have no wines — Margaret J. Proston.

### CELESTE'S WEDDING.

One day business requiring my presence at X- a small town with a population of 5,000 or 5,000 inhabitants, distant twenty miles from Paris. I arrived there about 10 in the foreneon, and was greatly surpresed to find the streets, which are generally so silent and peaceful, un-usually animated. Groups of men were standing in front of the shops, women were gossiping at the windows, young tuen and young girls were wending their way toward the public square, while urchins were running about in every di-

The Hotel of Commerce, my customary stopping place, seemed upside down. Travelers, who had been abundanted to their fais by the waiters, were tagging furiously at their bell cords, one calling for his breakfast, mother for his breakfast, this one wanted his mail, that one his paper, while the corridors were the scene of an indescribable confusion. The muster of the house, a stour, jovial man, known to all as Pather Philip, traveled up stairs and down, perspiring panding and luming, at a loss as to which call he should answer first. I stopped him as he

was going by.
"Hellot Father Philip," said I, with a laugh, "what is the matter? Are your servants on strike?

"Ant" replied he, as he mopped his face furiously with his handlerchief, "don't speak of it, sir. Although I had forbidden it, they have all pone to the wedding. Ah! here they are now, coming back: It is about time

With contrite looks and banging heads, the three waiters were returning as he said, sneaking along the wail. But Fa-ther Philip, red as a boiled lobster, had caught sight of them, and without wait-ing for explanations, he bawied at the

Say, are you all trying to make a fool of the? Auguste, charonite to 7, coffee with milk to 11, letters to 9? Finite, 16's books, 6's but, Petit Journal for 2. No. I's bill' Jules, 14's breakfast, The Time Table for 21."

Without any questions, Augusto, Emile and Juies disappeared up the staircase us it by magic. We heard them scurrying along the balls on the upper floor; doors were slammed, and are minutes inter the bouse had recovered its usual seremity. Then only did Frether Philip become more

calm, and, turning to me, he said:
"What you have not been relieved of your value yet. I ber your pardon. Ah! my dear sir, one is mything but happy when he has to deal with such scarnes! But then I cannot be magry with them to day. The whole town is topsy turvy on account of the wedding."

"Hein? Ah! that's so. You have just arrived and could not know. It is the marriage of MHe. Bondurand." Philip was very probably under the im-pression that I was going to eaching. "That accounts for it?" as he seemed most unpleasantly surprised when I re-plied, without dreaming that I might

give offense; "I man't see why the mar-riage of that particular lady should have revolutionized the lown in this way. He disdniufully stuck out his nether ip, a sure sign that he was pouting or, as his watters would any, "showing his lip." Still, he was on the point of explaining why such a cause had produced so great an effect when the rumbling of carriages resonated in the street and the air was filled with cries of "liere they

come! here they come! It was the webling—the famous wed-ding of Mile. Bondarand—which, after the ceremony at the town ball and at church, was passing by the hotel on its way back to the bride's residence. followed by a crowd of idlers who ran showing shouting waving their hats, and shoving each other, even under the horses' feet, as they senatabled in the dust after the sugar plums the groomsmen were throwing by handfuls through the

We had posted ourselves on the stoop to get a belier view of the cortege as it went by Father Philip shared in the general cuthususem, and seemed higely delighted as he pointed out to me the fain-

By and the rayited guests.
"There is Mansour Bendurand, the bride's father, in the second curriage. Helia! his wife is flet with him! Parhicu! she has get into her deal, her's vehicle. That hold headed gentleman is our sous

And who is that peasant woman in full dress. She seems quite impressed by the grand company in which she finds

hat is the groom a mother, old Mme. Florent. Doesn't the worthy woman sorm happy! Anyhow, there she is, for the first time in her life, riding in a car-

The groom is not a rich man, then!" "Who! Jacquis Florent? Why, he hasn't a cent to his name."

Mile. Celeste Bondurand has a dowry

of \$40,000 trans, without incutioning future expeciations.

A lemmand, replied his wife, 'I' it die first.'

It was at his point that M Pather Phillip smiled approvingly. As his eye fell upon the occupants of two of

the carrieges in the cortege, he suddenly There shey are! there they are! They are invited, too, it seems. "That is a were invited too, it seems. "That is a capital joic," as added, laughting until the tears rolled down his far cheeks. "Tis really a good joxe! \* \* Do

"Do I see whom: I don't see anything

There, in the sixth carriege, that tall

light hadred much at the side of that young girl in a pink dress with a white hat, is And in the other vehicle, that small, far, man, with the lady in green, is Monsieur Chapuis, the wealthy land owner. There is no doubt of it, they are both invited to

Why, of course they are, Father Philip, or you would not see them in carriages following the bride. But, tell me, why do you find it so found that those ge "Tis true! I always forget that you

have just arrived and have, as yet, heard nothing of it. If you only knew \* \* \* Ah! no, let me laugh.

here is an amusing story connected who are acquainted with the parties."

"All the same, tell it to me, Father Philip, I long to hear it."

I that in the castle of from Milan. It reputs to hear it."

nseing a weit informed, requestions in the keeper. Father Philip did not require much persuasion. The wedding train and the crowd had disappeared. We were alone on the veranda, where travelers generally sloped their coffee. I ordered two glasses of Madeira, and after tasting tiris the old fellow commenced as follows:
"I must begin by telling you that Jacques Florent, whom you have just

noticed, and who has married so well, was born in this neighborhood. We used to see him, when quite small, going to the parochial school, his sachel on his back, and his hands in his pockets. He was a civil, well bred youngster. When he met one he would politely doff his cap, and when school was dismissed he would never loaf about the streets instead of oing home. His mother, who manages a small farm near by, would take him to school in the marning when she came to town to sell the milk of her cows, and then would call for him in the evening on her way home. She was a widow, and worked hard to bring her son up properly. On his side, little Jacques worked hard

also. One year he won so many prize that he could not carry them all. Then lege. She found no sacrifice too great in order to obtain the means of paying for his board and lodging. She would arise an hour earlier in the morning and go to bed later at night, while all day long she would toil like a slave. Four Mother Florent! How she did move about in those days! Luckily it was not long before the youngster was able to provide for himself. He first won a scholarship here, another at college, still another in Paris at the Ecole Centrale, where he stood at the head of his classes.

"He must be a phenix, then?"
"I don't know about his being a phenix, but one thing certain is, that, like his mother, he is a hard worker, and working hard one always gets on.11

I agree with you there. "Well, to cut the story short, he suc-ecoded. In Paris, during three years, he faithfully attended to his studies, while be gave lessons here and there, and by this means made money enough to meet his smaller expenses. At last he passed his final examination successfully, and, with his diploma in his pocket, he re turned home. His good reputation had preceded him, and on his arrival M. Bourand offered him a situation in his

"Ah! yes. Now I understand about the arriage. But how about those two that you were laughing about a while ago: Where do M. de Vauvillain, the bailiff, and M. Chapuis, the landed proprietor,

'Hold on, you go too fast. In placing Jacones Florent at the head of his factory M. Rondurand had not the least idea of letting him wed his daughter-neither did Mme. Bondurand, I assure you Then Mile. Celeste's marriage took

ee against their wishes?"

Never in the world."
'I don't understand it at all, then." "That is not surprising. You don't give use time to explain things. You may well suppose that, with her fortune, Mile Celeste, who is a charming young person as you may have noticed yourself, and who was brought up as a princess, had no and of admirers. Every winter Mme. Bondurand's pariors are throughd with the best society of the town, and at her receptions the richest and most distinguished people are to be met. Being an engineer, Jacques was invited. He never failed to attend, but he always remembered his place, while Messrs. Chapuis and de Vanvillain paraded in the first ranks, letting it be known that they were in love with Mile. Celeste. I believe, though, that they were only in love with her dowry. Each made up his mind to win the prize at any cost, and the conduct of both was its strict accordance with this of both was in strict accordance with this determination. The strangest part of the whole proceedings was that neither attempted to get into the good graces of the young lady, who always treated them with marked coldness

binquint lovers, those "They imagined that Mile, Celeste, being a good girl of a very decile disposition, wishes. So they proceeded to lay slege to the old folks. M. Chapuis, by displaying an interest in M. Bondurand's business a@nirs, had no trouble in winning him over, while M. De Vauvillain, by means of his nobility, and by putting on the airs of a great lord, succeeded in getting the mother to espouse his cause to such an ex-tent that, in a rhort time, she promised him her daughter's hand while, on the other side, her husband was making the same promise to his rival.

d of course Mile. Celeste protested?" "Not at all. She let things take their own course. It happened that she had occasionally danced with Jacques Florent and had conversed with him in the parior. The young engineer's quiet, serious character and his easy, distinguished mannets soon impressed her. One day he spoke of his mother, of her devotion to bins, of the graticude and affection that he This proved to the young lady that his heart was in the right place. discopes, on his side, felt himself more than interested in the beautiful and sweet girl that had so kindly paid attention to him, but as he knew her to be very rich, his detocaner was always so respectful that no word or love ever passed between

"Of course everything had to come out all right in the end. Here is the natural winding up of the comedy. The first time that M. and Muse. Bondurand communiented to each other their designs in regard to their daughter there was a terrible row. Just think. Monsteur wanted Chaphis for his con-in-law. Madame could not bear him; he was a baboon, a Chinaman, a miser. He was ugly, deformed, ill laved, body dressed, unkempt and ridiculous. Madaine wanted de Vauvillain, whom monsieur held in hely horror. A snob, a talker, a boaster, a booby, an ass; noble, it was true, but a wretched beggar who depended entirely on his situation."

"They could not agree, then"
"Of course not Vanvillain, never"
exclaimed M. Hendurand, Chapuis," It was at this point that Mile. Celeste Phow: Monsiour Jacques Florent has took a hand in the game. She told her father that she loved M. Jacques Florent. that M. Florent loved her, and that she would be his wife or else she would marry de Vauvillain. She said the same to her mother, only the conditions were: Jacques or Chapins. Neither hesitated. In order to get rid of the one each hated so much. hath consented. The game was won."
"Of course the engineer was expecting

affairs to inke this turni"
"Not ar all: but Mile: Celeste bud been astute enough to foresee that there was no exposition to dread from that quarter, She had her father to call on him, and I need not say that the worthy young fellow's surprise was as great as his joy. You can understand that he accepted the offer enzerly, his only condition, being that, at

given to his mother. You have seen yourself that his wish was granted. 'Now, if you want to know why the say that it is because everybody likes Jacques. And," added Father Philip, with a cuming smile, "if I must tell all, you should remember that we are in the country, and we have had nothing else to talk of during the past three months."Phul Belon in The Petit Journal, translated for New Orleans Times-Democrat.

with the marriage thrulf?

"Amusing if you wish—that is, to those that in the castle of Sunoncia, two miles

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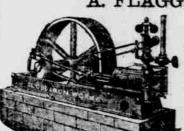
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